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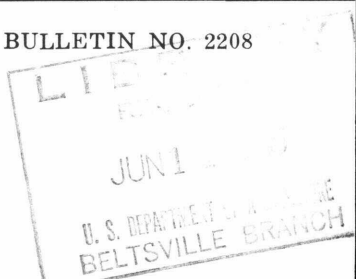
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • FARMER'S BULLETIN NO. 2208

Controlling Diseases of

RASPBERRIES AND BLACKBERRIES



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Controlling Diseases of RASPBERRIES AND BLACKBERRIES

Information for this publication was furnished by the Crops Research Division,
Agricultural Research Service

The most effective control measures for raspberry and blackberry diseases are those taken before the diseases become serious. Varieties adapted to a locality and resistant to the major diseases should be planted, if available. Plants certified as being substantially disease free by a State plant inspection service should be used.

Cultural practices that promote vigorous growth are also important in growing healthy raspberries and blackberries.

RASPBERRY DISEASES

Mosaic

Raspberry mosaic, a widespread virus disease, causes more severe damage on black and purple raspberries than on red raspberries.

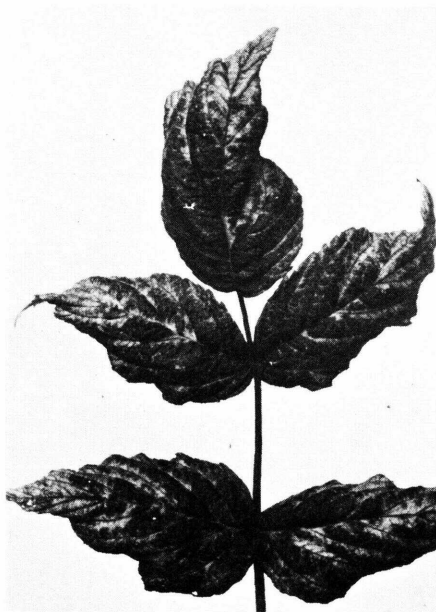
Leaves on mosaic-infected canes show large, green blisters (fig. 1). Leaf tissue around the blisters turns yellowish. The leaves are abnormally small and sometimes deformed. Leaves that develop in hot weather show only faint symptoms.

Mosaic also causes progressive stunting of canes. New growth from mosaic-infected raspberries is shorter than growth of preceding seasons.

On black and purple raspberries, the tips of young canes may bend, turn black, and die.

Berries on badly infected canes are dry, seedy or crumbly, and often worthless.

Control.—If available, plant State-certified raspberries that have been found to be free from the mo-



BN-22639

Figure 1.—Red raspberry leaves affected with mosaic. Curled leaves have large, green blisters.

CAUTION

If pesticides are handled or applied improperly, or if unused parts are disposed of improperly, they may be injurious to humans, domestic animals, desirable plants, and pollinating insects, fish, or other wildlife, and may contaminate water supplies. Use pesticides only when needed and handle them with care. Follow the directions and heed all precautions on the container label.

saic viruses. Do not plant healthy raspberries near diseased plants, and do not plant red raspberries near black raspberries, even when both varieties are disease free.

Remove and burn diseased raspberries; raspberries that leaf out late in spring are likely to be diseased.

Remove wild raspberries and blackberries from the vicinity of cultivated raspberries.

To reduce the number of virus-carrying aphids on raspberries, apply an insecticide recommended by your county agricultural agent or State agricultural experiment station.

Leaf Curl

Raspberry leaf curl is a virus disease that occurs most frequently in the Mountain States and from Minnesota east into the New England States.

Leaves on canes infected with leaf curl are rounded and curled. Tissue between veins of leaves is arched upward (fig. 2).

New canes are dwarfed and, each year, get shorter. The canes are yellowish at emergence, but they soon darken, become stiff and brittle, and frequently do not branch. As the disease progresses on black raspberries, canes will not bend to root at the tips.

Symptoms often appear on a single cane during a growing season and may not spread to other canes until the following season.

After a cane shows leaf symptoms, its fruit usually is worthless for marketing.

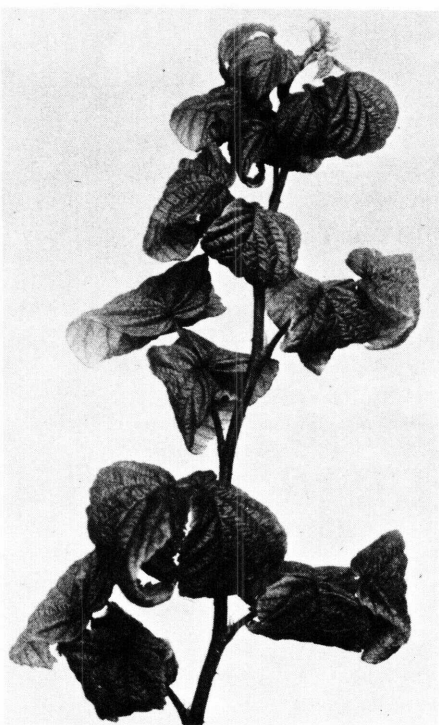
Leaf curl viruses are spread by certain small leaf-feeding aphids.

Control.—Use control measures recommended for raspberry mosaic (p. 4).

Mild Streak

Mild streak of black raspberries is a virus disease that occurs in the northeastern part of the United States.

Numerous purplish streaks develop on the lower parts of infected canes during summer. The streaks are faint (fig. 3) and usually less than 1 inch long.



BN-22634

Figure 2.—Leaf curl on red raspberry.



BN-22636

Figure 3.—Black raspberry cane showing mild streak. Streaks are purplish.

Leaves on new canes that are infected with mild streak often are hooked and blotched.

The infected plants generally are vigorous and propagate well, but they produce small, poor-quality berries.

Control.—Get raspberry stock from a source known to be free from mild streak. Do not plant healthy black raspberries near black raspberries that are infected with mild streak.

Remove wild black raspberries and blackberries from the vicinity of cultivated black raspberries.

Anthracnose

Anthracnose is a fungus disease that causes severe damage on black and purple raspberries throughout the United States. Although common on red raspberries, anthracnose does not seriously affect red raspberries.

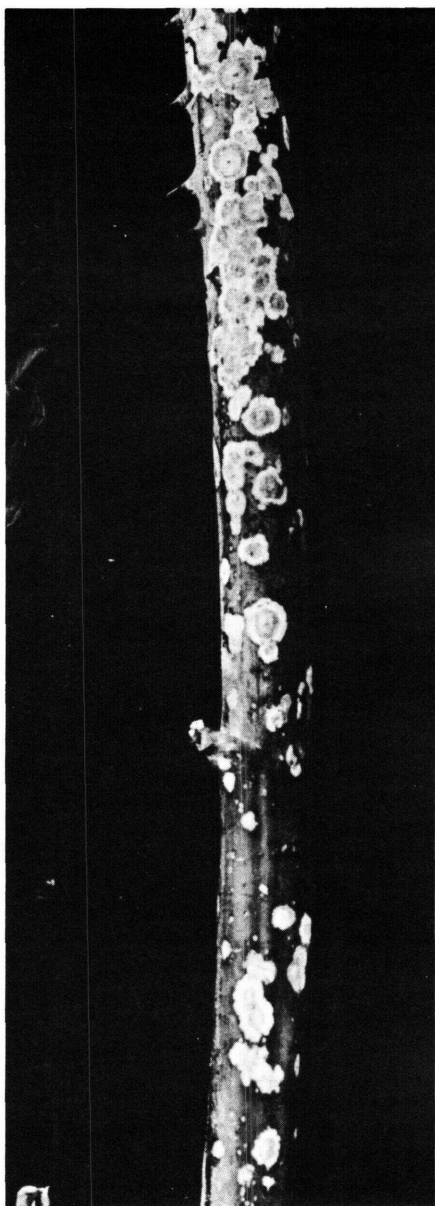
Infected canes first show light-grayish spots about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch in diameter. As the disease progresses, the spots enlarge and develop purple borders and ash-gray centers (fig. 4). Badly infected canes may be girdled or cracked.

Anthracnose sometimes attacks the leaves of raspberries but it rarely defoliates the plants. Spots about $\frac{1}{16}$ inch in diameter appear on infected leaves. The spots have light-gray centers and purple margins. Leaf tissue that is infected with anthracnose may drop out, causing holes in the leaves.

Berries on canes infected with anthracnose ripen abnormally and fruit stems frequently are girdled.

Control.—Choose a planting site that has good air drainage. Plant anthracnose-free raspberries. After planting black raspberries, cut off the protruding canes (handles) at ground level.

Make two or three applications of fungicide as follows: For the first application, apply lime sulfur (1



BN-22645

Figure 4.—Black raspberry cane showing symptoms of anthracnose. Spots have ash-gray centers and purple borders.

part of active ingredient to 10 parts of water) in early spring when leaf buds begin to open and new leaves are exposed $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch.

Make the second application when

flower buds appear and new canes are about 6 inches high. If anthracnose is severe, make a third application after petal fall when new canes are 12 to 15 inches high. Use captan or ferbam (2 pounds of commercial formulation per 100 gallons of water) for the second and third applications.

Try to make fungicide applications before anticipated periods of rainy weather, and thoroughly cover the raspberries with fungicide.

After harvest, remove and burn fruiting canes and new canes that are badly infected.

Thin out healthy canes to allow good air drainage and keep rows free from weeds.

Remove wild raspberries and blackberries from fence rows and uncultivated land adjoining cultivated raspberries.

Cane Blight

Cane blight is a widespread fungus disease that enters raspberry canes only through wounds in the canes. Pruning wounds are frequently attacked by cane blight.

Dark-brown cankers appear on wounds and extend down the cane or encircle it (fig. 5). Lateral shoots of infected fruiting canes wilt and die in warm weather. Infected canes turn grayish in summer.

Control.—If possible, prune raspberries at least 3 days before an anticipated rain. Remove and burn infected canes, and keep rows free from weeds.

Fruit Rots

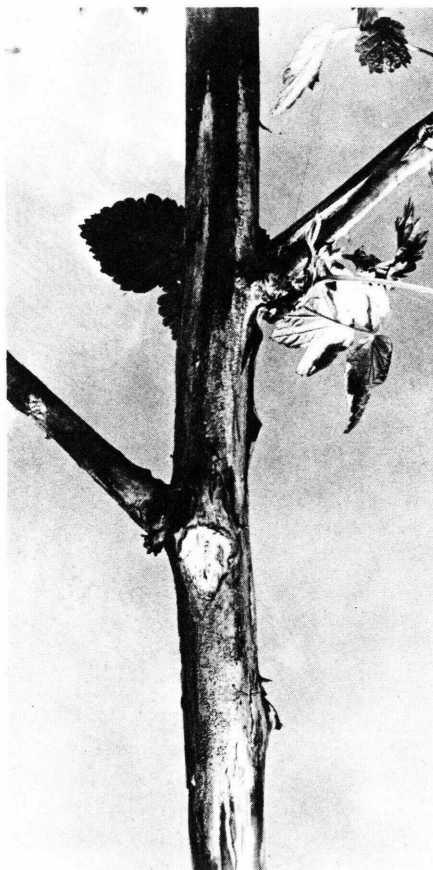
Fruit rots are widespread and develop fastest on overripe and bruised raspberries.

Warm, wet weather at harvest favors the development of fruit rots (fig. 6).

Control.—Pick only sound, firm berries and handle them carefully

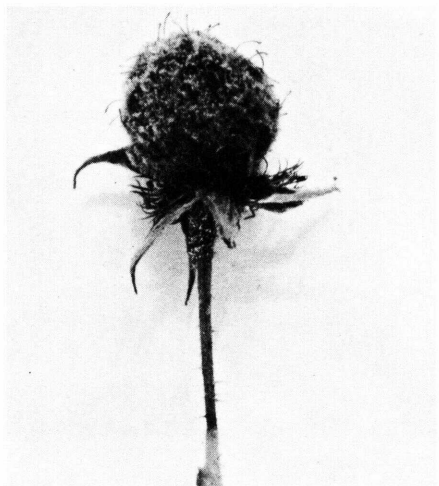
to avoid bruising them. Pick raspberries early in the morning when they are cool.

Store raspberries under refrigeration (32° to 40° F.) or, if refrigeration is not available, in a place that is shady and well ventilated. Fungicide sprays aid in reducing fruit rots but are no substitute for frequent, thorough pickings and careful handling. Captan (2 pounds of 50-percent wettable powder per 100 gallons of water) may be used for this purpose during the period of fruit ripening and harvesting.



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Figure 5.—Raspberry cane affected with cane blight. (Courtesy of Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station.)



BN-22843

Figure 6.—Gray mold fruit rot on red raspberry.

Leaf Spot

Leaf spot is a fungus disease that attacks raspberries throughout the United States, but it is most prevalent in the southeastern part of the country.

Tiny greenish-black spots develop on the upper surfaces of infected leaves. As the leaves mature, the spots turn gray. Infected leaf tissue may drop out and cause holes in the leaves. Badly infected leaves fall prematurely.

Control.—Remove and burn fruiting canes after harvest. Thin out healthy canes to allow good air drainage, and keep rows free from weeds.

Apply sprays recommended for anthracnose (p. 6).

Orange Rust

Orange rust is a fungus disease that attacks black and purple raspberries throughout the United States, but it is most common in the northeastern part of the country. Orange rust does not attack red raspberries.

After entering a plant, this organism spreads throughout the entire plant.

New canes that are infected with orange rust are weak and spindly, and they lack spines.

Infected leaves are abnormally small and yellowish. Blisterlike pustules, which shed reddish-orange spores, develop on the undersides of infected leaves (fig. 7).

Symptoms on upper leaves disappear toward the end of June, but the canes are thoroughly infected and will not blossom the following year.

Control.—Plant rust-free raspberries. Remove and burn raspberries that show symptoms of orange rust in spring. Remove wild raspberries and blackberries from the vicinity of cultivated raspberries.

Thin out healthy canes to allow good air drainage, and keep rows free from weeds. Fungicide sprays and pruning are ineffective for control of orange rust.

Spur Blight

Spur blight is a fungus disease that severely damages red raspberries in the northern part of the United States.

Brown or purple spots appear at buds along infected canes (fig. 8). Tissue around the buds darkens; the buds shrivel, fail to branch, and, consequently, do not produce fruit. Buds near ground level are affected more than buds that develop higher on the canes.

Leaves on diseased fruiting canes fall prematurely; the canes dry out and may crack.

Control.—Apply sprays recommended for anthracnose (p. 6), but delay first application 7 days. Make the second application when canes are 9 or 10 inches high; and 14 days later, make the third application.

In early spring, remove and burn infected canes.

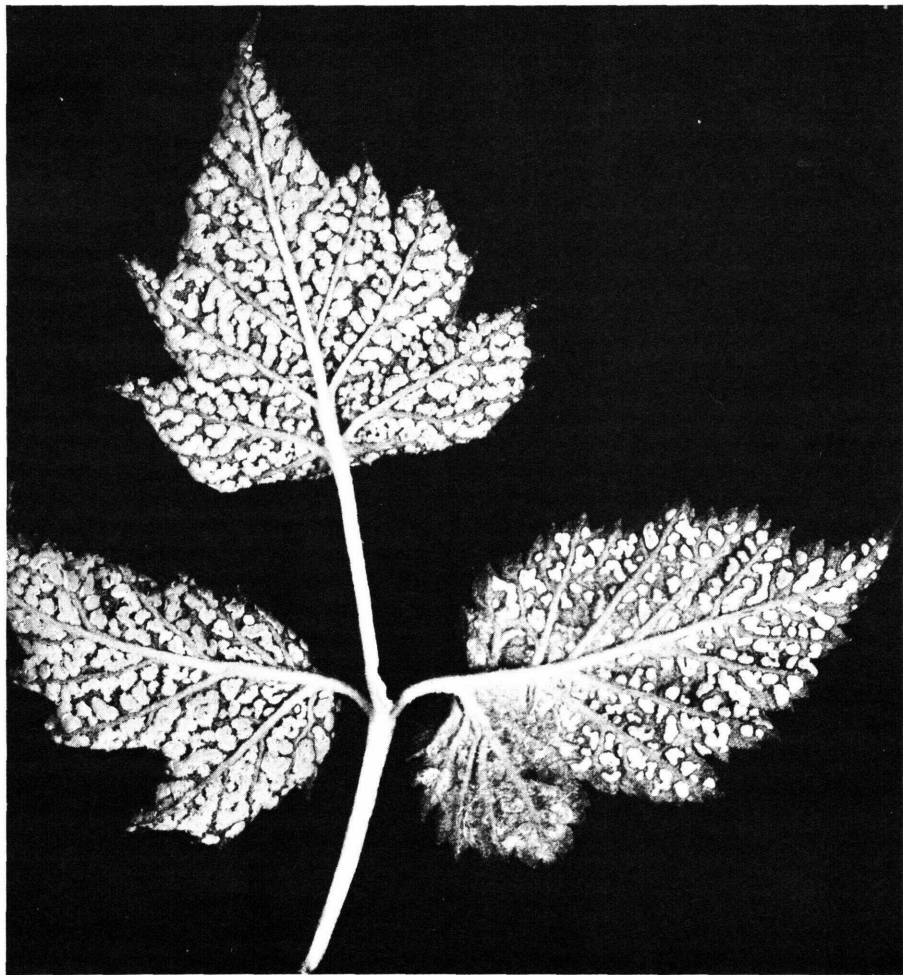
Verticillium Wilt

Verticillium wilt of raspberries is a soil-borne fungus disease that is widespread in the northern half of the United States and along the Pacific coast. It is particularly damaging to black raspberries.

Leaves on infected fruiting canes (fig. 9) turn yellow, gradually wither, and fall. These symptoms begin on the lower leaves and continue up the canes until the canes turn blue and gradually die.

Control.—Plant wilt-free raspberries in clean soil. If soil is infested, consult your county agricultural agent for information on fumigating with chloropicrin.

Rotate raspberries with other crops, but wait at least 3 years before planting raspberries in soils that have grown potatoes, tomatoes, peppers, or eggplants. Remove and burn diseased plants. Foliage applications of fungicides are ineffective for control of verticillium wilt.



BN-22635

Figure 7.—Orange rust on black raspberry. Blisterlike pustules are on undersides of leaves.



BN-22642

Figure 8.—Red raspberry canes showing spur blight. Infected tissue is brown or purple. (Courtesy of Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station.)

Cane Gall ¹

Cane gall, a bacterial disease of black and purple raspberries, occurs throughout the United States.

Tiny wartlike growths first appear on canes of infected plants (fig. 10). As the galls enlarge, the diseased canes crack, dry out, and produce berries that are small and seedy.

Control.—Plant gall-free raspberries in clean soil. Wait 2 or 3 years before replanting raspberries in locations where cane gall occurred.

Dig up and burn diseased plants. Do not injure plants when cultivating.

¹ See crown gall, page 15.



BN-22637

Figure 9.—Black raspberry plant affected with verticillium wilt. (Courtesy of Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station.)



BN-22641

Figure 10.—Purple raspberry canes showing cane galls.

BLACKBERRY DISEASES

Sterility

Sterility is a symptom of a virus disease that occurs in all blackberry-growing areas of the United States. Infected blackberries usually grow more vigorously than healthy blackberries, but they either fail to set fruit or produce misshapen berries (fig. 11).

Control.—Remove and burn blackberries that fail to set fruit; dig up roots to prevent new shoots from appearing. Plant only State-certified blackberries that were propagated from fruitful stock.

Anthracnose

Anthracnose is a fungus disease that attacks blackberries throughout the United States, but the disease is most severe in the southeastern part of the country.

Infected canes first show small purplish spots that are about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch in diameter. As the disease progresses, the spots enlarge and develop light-gray centers and brownish borders. Badly infected canes dry out and crack.

Infected leaves first show tiny purple spots. The spots gradually run together and turn white; the spotted tissue may drop out, causing holes in the leaves.

Infected berries are abnormally small and scabby.

Control.—Use control measures recommended for anthracnose on raspberries (p. 6).

Orange Rust

Orange rust, a fungus disease, is common on blackberries throughout the United States.

Leaves of infected canes turn yellowish soon after they unfold in



BN-22638

Figure 11.—Blackberries at right are infected with sterility virus; those at left are normal.



BN-22640

Figure 12.—Rosette on blackberry showing broomlike growths.

spring. As the disease progresses, undersides of the leaves show orange blisterlike pustules, which release spores.

Infected canes are spindly and clustered. Young canes that are diseased may appear to recover in late July or in early August when their upper leaves do not show rust symptoms. The canes are still diseased, however, and will not bear fruit the following year.

Control.—Plant rust-free blackberries; do not propagate cuttings from diseased plants.

Remove wild blackberries and wild black raspberries from the vicinity of cultivated blackberries.

Remove blackberries that show symptoms of orange rust; dig up

roots to prevent new shoots from appearing. However, if rust symptoms appear in late August or September, do not remove the plants, because the symptoms are caused by relatively harmless leaf rusts that commonly develop on old blackberry leaves.

Rosette

Rosette, or double blossom, is a fungus disease that attacks blackberries mainly from New Jersey to Illinois and southward.

Short, broomlike growths emerge along infected canes (fig. 12). Flower buds are larger, coarser, and redder than usual. Petals are

wrinkled and twisted. Infected canes fail to set fruit.

Control.—Remove wild blackberries from the vicinity of cultivated blackberries.

In Delaware and regions southward, cut *all* canes close to the ground after harvest and burn them. In northern regions, cut *fruiting* canes close to the ground after harvest and burn them; handpick and burn infected blossoms in spring or make three applications of bordeaux mixture (8-8-100) at 10-day intervals during the flowering period.

Leaf and Cane Spot

Leaf and cane spot, a fungus disease of blackberries, is common in the Southeastern States and in the Pacific Northwest.

Spots with whitish centers and brown or purple borders show on infected leaves (fig. 13) and canes. If the disease is severe, leaves fall prematurely and canes suffer winter injury.

Control.—Remove and burn infected canes after harvest. In Southern States, apply sprays recommended for anthracnose on rasp-



BN-22633

Figure 13.—Blackberry leaves showing leaf and cane spot. Spots have whitish centers and brown or purple borders.



BN-22632

Figure 14.—Blackberry roots showing crown galls.

berries (p. 6). In the Pacific Northwest, spraying for leaf and cane spot usually is ineffective.

Crown Gall

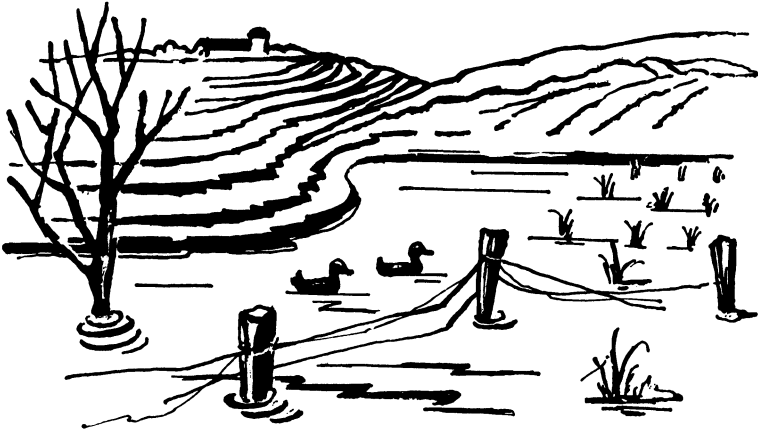
Crown gall, a bacterial disease of raspberries and blackberries, is distributed throughout the United States. It is responsible for large losses of salable nursery stock in both crops.

Wartlike growths (galls) appear on the roots and crowns of infected plants (fig. 14). Galls vary in size from that of a pinhead to several inches in diameter.

The above-ground parts of severely infected plants may be stunted. The disease organisms enter the plants only through wounds and growth cracks that are below ground level or slightly above it.

Control.—Plant gall-free raspberries and blackberries in clean soil. Wait 2 or 3 years before planting them in locations where crown gall occurred. Soils that have grown raspberries, blackberries, grapes, and tree fruits are likely to be infested with crown gall.

Dig up and burn diseased plants. Do not injure plants when cultivating.



Conserve your soil and water

Develop a farm or ranch conservation plan.

Use each acre within its capability.

Contour, strip crop, or terrace sloping land.

Plant and manage trees as a crop.

Improve range; manage grazing.

Encourage wildlife as useful and profitable crops.

Plant grass on idle land.

Use ponds to impound water.

Improve irrigation or drainage systems.

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